



Children at the Isotry Missionaries of Charity center in Antananarivo receiving their daily ration using food provided by CRS. David Snyder/CRS

CRS in Madagascar

An overview of the work of Catholic Relief Services in Madagascar

CRS is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency provides assistance to people in more than 100 countries and territories based on need, regardless of race, nationality or creed.



BACKGROUND

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) came to Madagascar in 1962 to provide humanitarian aid in regions with high levels of poverty and malnutrition. For 49 years, the agency has carried out food and nutrition programs for underprivileged mothers, children, disabled persons and victims of natural disasters. In 2008, following months of research and strategic planning, CRS-Madagascar decided to implement a more holistic approach to programming through three priority areas: livelihoods, health and justice, with the following goals:

To improve livelihoods in rural and peri-urban areas.

Our projects help vulnerable households develop more agricultural products, diversify their revenue sources, manage their natural resources and become more resilient to shocks.

To improve the nutritional status and health of vulnerable households.

We focus on maternal and child health because mothers and children under five years of age are particularly vulnerable. Our work deals with sexually transmitted illnesses, including HIV, as well as issues related to water and sanitation. We also focus on reinforcing the capacities of healthcare clinics and staff to help fill the current gaps and limitations of healthcare across the country.

To reduce the risk of violent conflict in the country.

People in Madagascar live in very fragile social conditions. In order to prevent large-scale turmoil, CRS- Madagascar promotes good governance, transparency and social accountability in all of its programming and development initiatives. Our projects are implemented by a variety of local partners, including Catholic dioceses, other Catholic Church structures such as national and local Justice and Peace Commissions, national and local nonsectarian, nonprofit organizations, and government structures. We also work in collaboration with international organizations through various consortia and initiatives.



CURRENT PROGRAMS

With six expatriate and 125 national staff, our office implements six large-scale programs throughout Madagascar. We have a main office in Antananarivo, sub-offices in Ambovombe, Fianarantsoa and Toamasina, and two satellite offices in South Antanimora and Tsihombe.

CRS helped this rice farmer in Tsinjorano switch to a system of cultivation that yields more rice with a smaller quantity of seeds. Sara A. Fajardo/CRS

The SALOHI Program

The Strengthening and Accessing Livelihood Opportunities for Household Impact (SALOHI) Program is an US\$85 million initiative funded by USAID/Food for Peace that seeks to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability in 21 districts in



These farmers from Antanimora were able to increase their crop production from 5,000 to 15,000 square meters with the help of a treadle pump installed by CRS. Sara A. Fajardo/CRS



Residents of the village of Amborompotsy in southern Madagascar work on a well in a CRS-supported program that will bring drinking water to this community of 500 residents have been using buckets to carry water from several miles away. Michael Hill/CRS

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eastern and southern Madagascar by June 2014 by focusing on the health and nutritional status of children under five, improving livelihood opportunities for food insecure households, and increasing community resiliency to food security shocks. Consortium members include ADRA, CARE and LAND'O LAKES. Our local partners include five diocesan partners and 15 social protection centers.

RANO HP

The Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Prosperity Ham Program (RANO HP) aims to increase sustainable access to improved water supply, increase the rate of sanitation coverage, and improve hygiene practices in 42 communes in five regions of eastern Madagascar by September 2013. These goals will be achieved by improving the organization and governance of the water and sanitation sector as well as collaborating with the private sector. This US\$10 million project is funded by USAID and implemented in consortium with CARE and four local partners: Voahary Salama, Caritas National, BushProof and Sandandrano.

RANOn'ALA

The Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Water Resource Management (RANOn'ALA) project aims to help vulnerable communities in the districts of Mananara, Mandritsara, and Soanierana Ivongo to access economically viable and safe water and sanitation services by September 2013. A key strategy is to foster dynamic public-private sector partnerships at the commune and community levels. This US\$7.5 million USAID-funded project is implemented in consortium with RTI International, Conservation International and Human Network International, as well as local partners Caritas National, BushProof and Sandandrano.

KMS

The Kaominina Mendrika Salama (KMS) project aims to strengthen health systems and community capacities while leveraging approaches and lessons from previous USAID projects in Madagascar. KMS seeks to increase demand and utilization of health services in 125 communes in seven regions of Madagascar with the ultimate goal of providing health services to the poor in the areas of maternal child health and HIV/AIDS by September 2013. As a sub-recipient to RTI International, CRS/MG implements project activities in the dioceses of Antsirabe, Ambositra, Fianarantsoa, Mananjary, Farafangana, Fort-Dauphin and Toamasina.

TARATRA

The TARATRA project advocates for good governance of mining operations and aims to both increase transparency in the management of revenue from mining resources and ensure that the revenue contributes to socio-economic development for the population in four extraction zones (Moramanga, Tsiroanomandidy, Fort Dauphin and Mahajanga) by January 2014. This US\$900,000 project is implemented through the local dioceses and funded by CRS private funds with contributions from Développement et Paix and Manos Unidas.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAPACITY REINFORCEMENT FOR RISK REDUCTION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

This project's goal is to strengthen local capacity to anticipate and respond to disasters in 81 *fokontany* or communities in the Androy region by July 2012. CRS-Madagascar is directly implementing this US\$434,000 UNDP-funded project.